Mr. Chakko Cheruvattur.—Sir, I move for leave to introduce the Bill to amend the Cochin Tenancy Regulation.

(*The question whether the mover of the Bill to amend the Cochin Tenancy Regulation has the leave of the House to introduce the Bill was put to the vote and carried.*)

Resolutions on matters of General Public Interest.

(1) *Instalment payment of lands assigned.*

President.—We will now pass on to the consideration of resolutions. The first resolution is that of Mr. Ramachandra Ayyar.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Mr. President, the resolution runs thus :—

"*This Council recommends to the Government that assignees of* poramboke *lands and forest exclusions be permitted to pay the value of the lands assigned in three or more annual instalments, Government retaining first charge on the lands till the full value has been paid.*"

Assignees of such lands sometimes find it very difficult to pay the whole land value in a lump sum. If the assignees are poor people, they have to borrow money from the rich at exorbitant interest. In the course of two or three years, the assignees have to give their lands to the rich, and the rich people also, if they want to take large acres of land, have to borrow money, and they also find it difficult to pay in a lump. So foreigners, European planters, have come and purchased lands. In order to avoid such difficulties, I have brought this resolution.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—I second the resolution. These are days when the economic problem of stringency is to be solved by taking to land, by taking to agriculture and by taking to plantation. We, in India, primarily an agricultural land, the largest number of people live on land. But two things are necessary to make use of the land, I mean for the poor people, i. e., land itself and capital. In these two matters, the Government aid is highly necessary. Now, in the acquisition of the land, if the poor people are to give the total amount on the spot, I don't think many poor people would take advantage, when Government assigns *poramboke* lands. I can say with special reference to my community. My community, as a class, is both lawless and money-less, and if there is any hope of its improvement in the future, it is for the rich to take more and more land, and see that the land is cultivated. That is the only way of solving the economic problem of my community. If other people are to take advantage of Government assigning lands, it is only by enabling us to pay back the cost in small instalments, and I hope that the Government would find its way to consider this resolution in a favourable light.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. M. K. Raman.—I also rise to support the motion. In addition to what has been already submitted by the other Members, I have to say that the Government should, as far as possible, try to see that these lands are assigned only to poor people. There is no use of giving additional wealth to those who are already rich. So I request the Government to make it a rule, and try to see that these lands are distributed among the poor, and to recover from them the cost of the land in very easy and comfortable instalments.

President.—Is it not on account of the fact that the land would go to the rich people ?

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Yes, Sir. That is why I say, give your land only to the poor. It is to avoid difficulty that I submit that we should take the cost of the land only in instalments. There may be defaulters, and the rich may get the land. But the possibility of the rich people snatching away from the poor will be less when easy terms are offered. And, of course, I need not say who are the poor people of this country. They are the labourers, cultivators, &c ,—the community which I have the honour to represent. So I request that the Government should take care to give these lands, as far as possible, to the poor labourers, who are really in need of the land, and not those who have already large areas of land and estates after estates.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—Government have not much to say about this. We accept the principle underlying the resolution. We are giving, in all real cases, where there is real necessity, where there is the special request from the assignees, concession to pay up in instalments. Even now we are collecting in three or four instalments, monthly, annual, or half-yearly. It depends upon the merits of each case, whether we can allow payment in instalments, and if so, how many.

We collect the amounts, according to the merits of each case, in instalments. We have not laid any hard and fast rule. Some Members of this House, who know about this matter, are aware of this fact. In regard to the poor people, we do not collect land value, viz., poor classes like Pulayas. And, so far, no complaint has come before me. Whenever the amount is pretty large, and looking to the condition of the party, we collect the amount in 3 or 4 instalments. The points brought forward by the mover of the resolution will be borne in mind.

President.—In the case of Narakkal ?

Rao Sahib Mr. T V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—For the last 3 or 4 years there has been no sale. Before 1096 there

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

was keen competition for plots for cocoanut plantation. Then, by the sale of copra, bags of money were coming at that time, and there was keen competition among the cocoanut planters.

Dr. A. G. Menon —That shows the poverty of the people.

President.—Now, is there demand for fund for rubber plantation ?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—That also has stopped. Now the people are going in for lands for the cultivation of pepper and coffee.

President.—Some time before, the public were eager to purchase land for rubber plantation. Is there no demand for plots among the European planters, Mr. Barton Wright ?

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—People are not inclined to invest in any land owing to business depression. The price of rubber has run down. People do not go in for rubber but the attention is to pepper and tea cultivation.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—The price of rubber has gone down. The demand for rubber is only temporary. Now the demand is for pepper, tea, &c.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Was this leniency shown to the assignees of *porambokes* in Cranganur Taluk ?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—Yes.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—I say no. There were two or three complaints sent to the Diwan, and I do not know whether the Diwan Peishkar was aware of those petitions. We are discussing the policy of the Government followed till now. We have to be familiar with the ancient history. After all 1099 is not a long period. Hundreds of acres of backwater were assigned and the owners of the adjacent lands were compelled to take them, for, if they did not take them, they will be compelled to forgo the front view of their land.

President.—Was it a petition for payment by instalment ?

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Yes. It was I who presented the petition to the Diwan. I requested sanction for payment of the amount by instalments. An oral promise was given, but when it was put into action, we were in no way better.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—All these things took place long ago. Four or five years have gone by.

President.—Is it still in force?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—No such order is in force now. It is left to my discretion.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—The petition was disposed of by the Diwan.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

President.—Is there any necessity to press theresolution ?

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.— I beg leave to withdraw the resolution.

President.—The question before the House is whether leave be granted to Mr. Ramachandra Ayyar to withdraw the resolution. Those who are in favour of the motion please hold up their hands.

(*The motion was carried and leave given.*)

(2). *Working of the Text-Book Committee and the Board of Studies.*

President.—The next resolution is that standing in the name of Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—The resolution reads thus:—

"*This Council recommends that Government may be pleased to appoint a Committee, constituted of the Director of Public Instruction and two non-official Members of the Cochin Legislative Council; to enquire into the alleged irregularities of the Text-Book Committee and the Board of Studies in the State, and to report upon the past working of the said Text-Book Committee and the Board of Studies during the last five years and to suggest necessary measures for more efficient work in future.*"

I do not think I need make a long speech to commend this resolution to this House, since both the official and non-official Members are aware of the trenchant criticisms levelled against the working of the Committee, during the budget session of the Legislative Council, and many of the newspapers have been agitating over the matter. I do not refer to particular books or particular personalities, but there are certain principles to govern the working of the Committee, and I am sorry that the Committee is not governed by definite rules. It is more or less the word of the President that carries weight, and whenever he issues certain instructions, they vary year after year and from meeting to meeting.

The second is that most of the members of the Text-Book Committee are Headmasters, and the Senior Inspector's opinions carry weight, and his opinions are generally given before the books are even taken into consideration. At one sitting we had to dispose of nearly 100 books. The meeting may last from 4 to 4½ hours, and the House can very well understand how many minutes a member can devote for the consideration of a book. Some call certain books library books, and the others do not even get time to refer to the opinions prepared by them.

The third defect is that there is no definite list of books issued before the books are considered by the Board of Studies.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly